Abstract of the Disclosure

When a control packet is transmitted/received among devices that support a spanning tree protocol 5 (STP), a receiving side device temporarily stores a received control packet in a buffer. When the transmission of a control packet from a transmitting side device is stopped, the control packet stored in the buffer is transferred to a STP processing unit in 10 a specific cycle. Alternatively, the transmitting side device autonomously transmits a control packet for a specific period at specific intervals from when the STP processing unit stops its operation until it restarts the operation according to an instruction to start an 15 automatic transmission.